2020 Session Begins!

The 2020 session began the first week of January with the early introduction of bills and taking care of organizational issues. The biennial state budget will be enacted during this even-year session of the Kentucky General Assembly with a new Democrat governor and both the House and Senate with strong Republican majorities.

The candidate filing deadline was last Friday and now the legislature should really start to get down to work. Governor Andy Beshear gave his State of the Commonwealth address last night in the House chamber and will present his budget plans to state lawmakers in late January. In his address, the governor called for increases for infrastructure spending and improving drinking water!

The governor inherits a forecasted $1.1 billion budget deficit over the next two fiscal years and has pledged his support for legalized sports betting as one of his major revenue producing ideas. Both the House and Senate leadership have voiced their initial rejection for this idea. It will be interesting to see how long the new governor’s honeymoon with the legislature will last!

The Kentucky Rural Water Association will be hosting its Legislative Breakfast on Wednesday, March 4, 2020 at the Capital Plaza Hotel in Frankfort from 7:00 am until 9:00 am. The Legislative Breakfast provides a great opportunity for utility managers and board members to meet with their representatives and senators during the session to gain support for projects and discuss possible legislation. To register online go to www.krwa.org or call KRWA at 270-843-2291 by February 28.

The state maintains a comprehensive Legislative website: http://www.lrc.ky.gov. From this site, you can view all bills and resolutions, contact legislators by email and check on legislative committee schedules and calendars.

The Kentucky General Assembly also maintains several toll-free phone numbers for citizens to offer feedback or opinions. The Legislative Message Line is (800) 372-7181. Citizens with hearing impairments can use the TTY Message Line at (800) 896-0305.

This issue of e-Liaison contains summary information for bills that we are tracking with details on the most recent activity for each bill. We will continue to highlight timely legislative news that is important to our members in each weekly issue. If you would like to suggest that we add a bill to the e-Liaison for tracking purposes, please contact KRWA.
HB44 INFRASTRUCTURE (GOOCH JR., JIM)

Amend KRS 511.100 to change the definition of "key infrastructure assets" to specify that natural gas or petroleum pipelines are the type of pipelines covered in the definition and include other types of infrastructure assets; amend KRS 512.020 to include tampering with, impeding, or inhibiting operations of a key infrastructure asset in the offense of criminal mischief in the first degree; create a new section of KRS 411 that a civil action may be maintained against a person that compensates or remunerates a person to violate KRS 512.020 and the compensated person is convicted of criminal mischief in the first degree.

CURRENT STATUS: 1/13/2020 - (H) posted in committee House Natural Resources & Energy (H)

HB77 PREVAILING WAGE (KULKARNI, NIMA)

Create a prevailing wage law for all public works projects; amend KRS 12.020, 99.480, 227.487, 336.015, 337.010, and 337.990 to conform.

CURRENT STATUS: 1/7/2020 - (H) Referred to Committee House Economic Development & Workforce Investment (H)

HB114 PUBLIC PROCUREMENT (DONOHUE, JEFFERY)

Create new sections of KRS Chapter 45A to set forth findings of the General Assembly and establish a policy of the Commonwealth of Kentucky to promote the Kentucky and United States economies by requiring a preference for iron, steel, and manufactured goods produced in Kentucky and the United States.

CURRENT STATUS: 1/7/2020 - (H) Referred to Committee House State Government (H)

HB123 EARNED PAID SICK LEAVE (CANTRELL, MCKENZIE)

Create a new section of KRS Chapter 337 to require employers to provide earned paid sick leave to employees; provide that employees earn paid sick leave upon the date of hire and can use the leave after being employed for 90 days; set forth allowable uses of earned paid sick time; designate how notice of need to use sick time is provided by employees; amend KRS 337.990 to establish penalty for employers that fail to follow paid sick leave requirements.

CURRENT STATUS: 1/7/2020 - (H) Referred to Committee House Economic Development & Workforce Investment (H)
Amend KRS 278.030 to include rate affordability when determining fair, just and reasonable utility rates; allow the Public Service Commission to review the affordability of a utility’s rate if the utility has not requested a rate adjustment in five years; allow the commission to order a rate increase to prevent significant increases in a single period; require fair, just, and reasonable rates to balance the interests of the utility, its investors, and the ratepayer.

**CURRENT STATUS:** 1/7/2020 - (H) Referred to Committee House Natural Resources & Energy (H)

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Repeal, reenact, and amend KRS 61.565 to change the Kentucky Employees Retirement System’s nonhazardous employer contribution payable on or after July 1, 2020, from a percentage of pay for both the normal cost contribution and the actuarially accrued liability contribution to a normal cost that is a percent of pay and an actuarially accrued liability contribution that is a set dollar amount.

**CURRENT STATUS:** 1/13/2020 - (H) posted in committee House State Government (H)

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Create a new section of KRS 424.110 to 424.370 to give local governments the option to post required advertisements online on a notice Web site operated by local government in lieu of newspaper publication, so long as a one-time advertisement is published in an actual newspaper; specify requirements for advertisements published on the notice Web site and in an actual newspaper; specify rights of public and duties of local government; set out consequences of local government’s failure to publish as required by law; provide penalty.

**CURRENT STATUS:** 1/9/2020 - (H) Referred to Committee House Local Government (H)

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Creates a new section of KRS Chapter 336, relating to collective bargaining for public employees; amend KRS 336.010 to define "public employees"; amend KRS 336.130 to allow employees of the Commonwealth of Kentucky to collectively bargain.

**CURRENT STATUS:** 1/13/2020 - (H) Referred to Committee House State Government (H)

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Amend KRS 61.882 to require the award of costs and attorney fees if a court finds a record is withheld willfully under the Open Records Act.

**CURRENT STATUS:** 1/13/2020 - (H) Referred to Committee House Judiciary (H)
HB247 PROCUREMENT  (HART, MARK)

Amend KRS 45A.380 to enable noncompetitive negotiation under the Kentucky Model Procurement Code for purchase or sale of wholesale electric power or natural gas by a local public agency; amend KRS 424.260 to exempt contracts for local public agency purchase or sale of wholesale electric power or natural gas of more than $30,000, from requirement for newspaper advertisement for bids.

CURRENT STATUS:  1/13/2020 - Introduced

HR37 KENTUCKY RIVER  (TIPTON, JAMES)

Encourage restoration and maintenance of the Kentucky River to ensure full navigability of the river for economic and tourism development purposes.

CURRENT STATUS:  1/10/2020 – Introduced

SB5 SPECIAL PURPOSE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES  (ALVARADO, RALPH)

Create a new section of KRS Chapter 65A to require proposed increases in ad valorem taxes and certain fees and the levy of new ad valorem taxes or fees by special purpose governmental entities (SPGE) to be submitted to the legislative body of the county or city in which the SPGE is located for review.

CURRENT STATUS:  1/13/2020 – Returned to Senate State & Local Government

SB86 WATER FLUORIDATION  (WEST, STEPHEN)

Amend KRS 211.190 to allow local government entities and special districts to void implementation of the water fluoridation programs administered by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services by legislative action.

CURRENT STATUS:  1/13/2020 - Introduced